

President's Letter



Dear Members,

It is hard to believe it is almost the end of June. The time has surely flown by.

Thanks to "Dog Sense" and Nancy French, we have had a wonderful venue for socializing humans and our four legged friends.

Due to a mix-up in dates, the June 20th picnic has been tentatively moved to June 27th from 4-6 pm again at Dog Sense. It will be the last time we meet until September so we hope to see everyone before we break for the summer.

Have a safe and wonderful summer.

Sue Faber
MVMSC President

Welcome New Club Members –

Bonnie Garris – Salisbury, MD
Tom and Beth Hinchliffe – Germantown, MD

GINGER'S FOURTH OF JULY SNAPS

Bakes 18 crispy, crunchy summertime snacks

Make these cookies in a snap – the results will be explosive!

½ cup molasses	¼ teaspoon cinnamon
2 tablespoons honey	½ teaspoon ground cloves
½ water	2 tablespoons ground ginger
3 cups white flour	¼ cup chopped pecans
1 teaspoon baking soda	

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a bowl, combine molasses, honey, water and oil. In another bowl, mix flour, baking soda, cinnamon, cloves, ginger, and pecans. Stir dry mixture into wet and mix well.

On a lightly floured surface knead and roll out dough to ¼ inch thick, then cut out shapes. Place on greased baking sheet and bake for 20 minutes. Cool on a rack then store in a sealed container.

MVMSC News

We started the new year in March with a new meeting site – Dog Sense. This is a dog training facility in Rockville whose owners have allowed us to have meetings after hours on Saturdays. The best feature – since this facility is made for dogs, all our minis can come with us to the meetings for

socialization and play time with other minis. Feedback on this change has been great. Members polled say one of the things they look for most is the ability to bring their minis along to share in the fun. We had a guest speaker who demonstrated the benefits of the “Tellington t-touch method” as well as a puppy match at the new facility.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Edward Gross (nee Shawne Imler) who were married May 30 in a beautiful water-side ceremony in Middle River, MD.

Please join us at our annual picnic Saturday, June 27 at 4 pm at Dog Sense. (See address and phone number in the Events Calendar.)

Natural Diet – should your MS eat more like a wolf?

No ‘Green’ issue would be complete without an article arguing the pros and cons of a natural diet – raw meat vs the commercial kibble, which is made up of meat and grains and starches. Most people agree that domestic dogs aren’t built like animals that must survive primarily on meat. Dogs have gastrointestinal tracts and teeth that reflect a much more diverse diet than just meat. They have an almost full complement of molars, which are used for grinding plant material, much more like a human than a cat or wolf.

In other words, dogs can survive on many different foods, including the starches in commercial kibble. They don’t need starch, but they can utilize its nutrients if that’s what’s available.

Whether or not a bowl of kibble is the ideal diet for dogs is, however, another question. The subject is controversial, and much of the information both for and against different kinds of pet diets is produced by people or companies with a vested interest in selling a product. While some people say natural foods like raw meat and bones are obviously better, others say scientifically formulated and nutritionally balanced dog food is better, even though it is more processed and less natural. What’s the real story?

Some say the trouble with kibble is that it contains not only more carbohydrates than dogs need, but is missing many things whole food once contained. Kibble is processed at very high temperatures – this sterilizes the food and destroys many of the nutrients. This bothers many people who believe in eating food as close as possible to its naturally occurring state.

The biggest difference between food dogs eat in the world and food our domestic dogs eat is that food in the world is not cooked, and our pets’ diets are usually totally cooked. Many holistic veterinarians recommend a raw meat diet for dogs, but this isn’t as easy as it sounds. When preparing raw food diets, people tend to take the muscle meat out of the animal and make that the major part of the diet, but unless your dog is also eating the stomach, bones, and everything else, you have to add nutrients back into the raw meat, or the diet won’t be adequate.

Although pet owners once had to formulate raw diets at home, an increasing number of pet food companies now make frozen raw diets, making it easier to feed a nutritionally complete raw diet. But even with supplementation, not all experts agree that raw is best for domesticated dogs.

There are documented cases of raw diets with potentially pathogenic microorganisms and food-borne illness in pets eating these diets. Even commercially prepared frozen raw diets can contain pathogens that could make the pets or the people preparing the food sick, especially seniors, children, or people with compromised immune systems. Some people believe that until they see convincing evidence, from a safety standpoint, it’s safer to feed cooked food.

On the other side, some people believe a properly supplemented raw diet can be very good for dogs. Several companies producing frozen raw diets are experimenting with ways to eliminate pathogens without cooking the meat, so safer raw diets may be on the horizon. Still, many people don't want to feed their dogs raw food, either due to the risk, because they don't like handling the raw meat, or because their dogs won't eat it. Is there a better option? Can we one-up Mother Nature?

Commercial pet food, although not perfect, is nutritionally complete compared to a wild diet. Instead of wild or even raw, some suggest a combination approach. An diet at least 80 percent high-quality commercial dog food, rotating brands to ensure a variety of ingredients, along with no more than 20 percent high-quality whole foods, such as fresh meat and ground vegetables is often recommended. This approach, some say, combines the best of both worlds: nutrition science and unprocessed whole foods.

Whether or not you feed your dog a supplemented organic raw meat diet or a bowl of the best kibble, you can't really compare either diet to a wild prey animal. One is living, then killed and eaten almost immediately. The other has been processed through our food chain. The bottom line is that mimicking a wild diet, while it sounds like a good idea, is less important than giving our domestic dogs the best possible nutrition for their current needs, as evolved animals living in a human world.

Polluted Pets – Are Chemical Contaminants harming our dogs?

A study released by the Environmental Working Group, a non-profit Washington-based research and advocacy group, said that dogs are polluted with 2.4 times more chemical contaminants than people. After years of studying the impacts of chemical exposures in adults and children, EWG last year released the first-ever study on industrial chemicals found in man's best friend. By testing blood and urine, researchers found dogs were contaminated with 48 of 70 industrial chemicals commonly found in homes and outdoor environments, including 43 chemicals at higher levels than those found in people.

The study results were alarming, says a member of the EWG's Pets for the Environment program. "We learned that dogs carry toxic chemicals at much higher levels than we ever expected."

Relative to people, EWG's study found that dogs had higher levels of:

- Stain and grease-proof chemicals, which can be found in some dog food bad linings, in house dust, and in stain-resistant furniture. These chemicals can disrupt fetal and neonatal development, affect immune and liver function, and potentially risk of chronic diseases.
- Plastic softeners called phthalates, from plastic dog toys. These chemicals can cause reproductive damage, birth defects, and cancer.
- Fire retardants in pet bedding and foam furniture produced prior to 2005. These chemicals can alter thyroid function.

Dogs ingest these chemicals just as humans do, but dogs are even more vulnerable than people. Because they have compressed life spans and age seven times faster than humans, experts say they develop health problems from chemical exposures more rapidly than people. Their proximity to the ground means they are in close contact with pesticide-treated lawns and flame-retardant carpets.

The alarming presence of chemicals in our dogs might be a wake-up call needed for stronger safety measures for pet products. Chemical companies simply don't have to prove chemicals are safe before they are used in pet toys. Until laws are changed, pet owners need to be vigilant. EWG says pet owners should choose pet foods without the chemical preservatives BHA, BHT, and ethoxyquin, as well as choose organic ingredients rather than byproducts. Because some pet food packaging may contain non-stick, grease-proof chemicals in the lining, pet owners also should ask manufacturers how the pet food is produced and packaged.

Owners may be glad to know the American Pet Products Association meets regularly with the Consumer Product Safety Commission for guidance and offers standards and direction to pet product manufacturers. Although the commission doesn't have a division for animal safety, the information it provides to APPA about human products enables the organization to keep pet product manufacturers aware of what's going on. While the information in the EWG report is enough to "make you scratch your head and think", it may not be diligently and scientifically validated yet. It indicates possibilities rather than scientific absolutes.

Although it's disturbing to hear that dogs carry more chemical toxins in their bloodstream than people, pet owners can make small changes in their pet's environment to reduce exposure, and, hopefully, help ward off future health problems.

Events Calendar

June 27(Saturday) at 4 pm– the annual Club Picnic, to be held at the Dog Sense, Unlimited facility in Rockville.

**Dog Sense Unlimited
601-10 Dover Road
Rockville, MD 20850
301 340-8766**

July and August – Vacation time. See you in September.

Schnauzer National News



Notes from the AMSC –

The second AMSC Board meeting of the year was held June 21 in Long Beach, CA, site of the second National Specialty of 2009. Updates regarding the meeting will be in the next issue.

Meanwhile, think winter, think snow in the DC area. Think how much you would like to get away to the warm temperatures of Florida. West Palm Beach will be hosting the AMSC 2010 Roving Specialty March 12-14, 2010, so this is your chance to escape the frigid northland and enjoy a national mini schnauzer show.

Enjoy three days of majors, eye clinic, dental discussion, banquet and a raffle to include a Lanny Hirstein grooming table, Chris Christensen grooming products, custom-made measuring wickets, and a hand-made mini schnauzer quilt. Hosted by the Central Florida MSC, this show cluster will be magnificent – all shows will be indoors, in air-conditioned fairground facilities. Book your flight now! For more information, contact the show chair – Gloria Lewis at 561-697-9634 or email: glorialewis@bellsouth.net

MEETING MINUTES
MOUNT VERNON MINIATURE SCHNAUZER CLUB
DOG SENSE UNLIMITED
SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 4:40 pm by Sue Faber, President.
Present were 12 members and 1 Associate Member.

President's Report

Sue Faber presented information about an upcoming program for April, a presentation on Tellington TTouch by Pam Wanveer. The proposed cost would be \$300. There would be no charge to members; non-members would be asked to pay a fee of approximately \$15.00 to participate. A motion was made to schedule the TTouch program at the cost of \$300; motion was approved.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the December 14, 2008 meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer's Report

Laurese Katen reviewed income and expenses for the past month.
Revenue: \$1,450 for the Eye Clinic held in March at Shawne Imler's.

Expenses: \$1,500 to the Eye Clinic

\$50 – gift to Chris and Connie Franck

75 – fee to Howard County for the use of the Fairgrounds for our October specialty luncheon

Balance: \$7,189.13

New Business

Sue Faber led discussion about the possibility of the Club's covering costs of surgery and related medical expenses for Pearl, a rescue miniature schnauzer. As membership approval is required to spend these funds (estimated to be \$1500 - \$1700), there was discussion about whether to set a limit on the amount contributed, or whether to allow flexibility for the Board to pay the costs without limitation. A motion was made to approve funding of all medical costs for Pearl, with conditions that the Board would develop and propose an alternative for handling rescue situations in the future. Another condition of approval was that the Board would seek contributions from members throughout the year to reimburse the Club treasury for Pearl's medical costs. The motion was approved.

A suggestion was made by a member that the Board look at the Club's overall policies for supporting schnauzer rescue and medical research. At present there is no specific guidance for setting aside contributions from club revenues for these purposes. A suggestion also made that the Board look at setting term limits on all club offices – such that the same members would not hold the same position without restriction. AKC rules and practices would need to be consulted before this could be done.

Committee Reports

No Committee Reports

A proposal was made to adjourn the meeting and begin the Schnauzerama. The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm.

MEETING MINUTES
MOUNT VERNON MINIATURE SCHNAUZER CLUB
DOG SENSE UNLIMITED
SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 4:15 pm by Sue Faber, President. There were 11 members present.

President's Report

Sue Faber began the brief business meeting by reviewing the schedule of upcoming club meetings. On Saturday, May 9, there will be a Puppy Match at the Dog Sense Unlimited facility from 4-6 pm. The annual picnic will be held on Saturday, June 13, from 4-6 pm.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the March 14, 2009 meeting were read by Lois McCormick and approved.

Treasurer's Report

Laurese Katen presented this month's report. We have received \$320.50 thus far for our newly established Rescue Fund. The Trophy Fund has \$657.43. The current balance of the general fund is \$5,826.88. (This does not include either of the special funds above.)

New Business

There was some discussion of our Trophy Fund and the type of trophies/awards that might be appropriate for our Fall Specialty, to be held October 10 at Howard County Fairgrounds. It was suggested that the Club spend all of the funds donated for the Trophy Fund.

Committee Reports

There were no Committee Reports.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting and begin the presentation on Tellington TTouch by Pam Wanveer. The motion was passed and the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.

MEETING MINUTES
MOUNT VERNON MINIATURE SCHNAUZER CLUB
DOG SENSE UNLIMITED
SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 4:15 pm by Sue Faber, President. There were 12 members present and 2 guests.

President's Report

Sue Faber stated that this would be a very brief general meeting with no committee reports. Following the meeting would be the program, a Puppy Match judged by B. J. Arczynski.

Secretary's Report

Minutes of the last general meeting (April 25) were ready by Lois McCormick and approved.

Treasurer's Report

There was no Treasurer's Report.

Committee Reports

There were no Committee Reports.

New Business

Sue presented a proposal by Laurese Katen to hold the club annual picnic at her home on Sunday, June 28, in lieu of the planned date and location of June 20 at the Dog Sense Unlimited facility. The details of both alternatives for the picnic were reviewed by Sue: both locations would be indoor locations and dogs would not be invited if the picnic were to be held at Laurese Katen's home. Inasmuch as the decision had already been

made to hold the picnic at the Dog Sense Unlimited facility and a commitment made to rent the facility, a vote of members present was held to choose one of the dates/locations. The vote was 11 to 1 in favor of holding the picnic at Dog Sense Unlimited on June 20. Sue asked for volunteers to coordinate plans and menu for the picnic on June 20. Ardi Skinner and Teri Kaelin volunteered.

Sharon Edwards presented 2 samples of informational brochures developed by other clubs to promote their activities. There was discussion about how our club could make use of such a brochure in publicizing our activities and recruiting new members. Cost would not be prohibitive. Members were asked to review the sample brochures during the meeting and give comments to Sharon.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting and begin activities. The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 pm.

All minutes Respectfully Submitted by
Lois McCormick, Secretary

The Great Poop Debate

POOP: It's a bigger problem than you might think, at least from an environmental perspective.

Although dog owners have gotten accustomed to scooping, tightly knotted plastic bags exact a huge toll. They are not biodegradable in landfills, and so turn into what one dog park frequenter called "a plastic-wrapped time capsule".

A few high-tech approaches are pending. For example, some cities are experimenting with methane digesters, which convert dog waste into methane gas, a viable energy source. But in the meantime, here are some environmentally conscious options:

- Biodegradable poop bags. Some bags advertise themselves as earth-friendly, and are made of natural materials such as corn. But if the landfill is anaerobic, or "airlocked," these bags will not break down any more than any other biodegradable products will in the absence of oxygen.
- Flush it! This simple solution is the best one, according to most experts. Flushing dog waste down the same toilet that dispenses yours is environmentally sound and earth-friendly.
- Composting. Creating a compost pile for your dog's droppings is a fine idea, as long as you separate the pile from the one you use to generate compost for your vegetable garden. Parasites and bacteria in canine feces can survive the heat of a compost pile, presenting a health hazard.
- Doggie septic tanks. Such below-ground systems are commercially available, but be aware of any underground water resources that could be affected by leaching.

Some of these options are fairly simple, some are complex, and one is arguably icky, but nobody said it was easy being green.

Canine Health Corner



Topic this issue: Lyme Disease – Managing a Mysterious Malady
Excerpt from the AKC Family Dog

Veterinarians are finding that canine Lyme disease is more common than thought. New testing techniques have discovered many infected dogs, yet what to do with them is uncertain.

Lyme disease (specifically the *Borrelia burgdorferi* bacterium) is spread by ticks. Your dog's risk for contracting it depends on tick exposure. A dog that lives in an apartment and walks only on concrete probably will never pick up a tick. A dog that goes for walks in any wooded area could be exposed frequently. The risk also hinges on where you live: Lyme disease has been found in all 48 contiguous states, but the Northeast and upper Midwest are considered hot spots for the organism.

If your dog does pick up a tick, will he get Lyme disease? Not all ticks carry Lyme disease so you can't be sure, but human health data can help determine the likelihood of infection. Because Lyme disease is relatively new in dogs, there are still some facts we are unsure about. Even test results can be difficult to understand. If a dog has a positive test, it means he has antibodies to *Borrelia* in his bloodstream. But does this mean he has the disease? Should he be treated? These are not easy questions to answer.

Clinical signs develop in only about 10 percent of infected dogs. They occur 2-5 months after the infection and may include lameness, enlarged lymph nodes, lethargy, and fever. It is common for these signs to resolve themselves within a few days, though some dogs require antibiotics to recover fully. It is not known whether or not dogs get the devastating recurrent disease syndromes typical of human infections. We do know that if a dog has clinical symptoms of Lyme he needs treatment. This consists of antibiotics, usually amoxicillin or doxycycline, for 4-6 weeks. But if an apparently healthy dog has a positive test, what should be done?

A large percentage of dogs – up to 70% in some places – have antibodies against *Borrelia*. Many mount an immune response and eradicate the Lyme disease organism. Some veterinarians believe they should treat all dogs with a positive test whether they show symptoms or not. Others choose to treat only dogs with a high level of antibodies in the blood. A third group reserve treatment for dogs that have both clinical symptoms and positive blood tests.

Dilemmas over testing and treatment can be avoided by preventing infection. Frequent tick removal is the best way to prevent *Borrelia*. This means if you remove ticks from your dog daily, you will likely prevent transmission of the infection. A tick can take up to 12 hours to attach to a dog, and another 18-24 hours to transmit the infection. The most widely publicized way to prevent Lyme is through vaccination. Two types of vaccines are available – a whole-cell bacterin that consists of the entire killed *Borrelia* organism, and a recombinant outer surface protein A containing just one part of the *Borrelia*. Both are effective and safe. They work by stimulating the dog's production of antibodies. As a tick ingests the blood of a vaccinated dog, the antibodies inactivate the *Borrelia* bacterium.

Should you have your dog vaccinated against Lyme disease? The prevalence in the DC area is fairly high, so you should consult with your veterinarian regarding this issue. He/she can inform you about vaccination protocols based on his/her personal understanding of Lyme disease.

By the numbers –

48 States where Lyme disease has been found	10 percent of in- fected dogs de- velop Lyme	70 percent of dogs in some areas have antibodies against Lyme	12 number of hours it can take a tick to attach to a dog	50 percent of dogs infected in some areas of the NE
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A Must Have for the ‘Green’ Mini Schnauzer

Does sleeping on a bed of corn sound uncomfortable? Mountain Mist (www.mountainmistlp.com) has actually developed eco-friendly pillow forms and filler fibers made from one of Earth’s most abundant and renewable resources – corn! Ecocraft is a soft, durable fiber that is breathable, non-allergenic, and won’t attract insects.

To begin, ask your fabric store for fabric remnants – the leftover scraps often headed for the trash. They’re the perfect size to create your own dog bed. You’ll need about 2-3 yards per bed. You can easily stitch the fabric together, then fill it with Ecocraft filler.

Warning – Blue-green means ‘Stop’

Summer and early fall are high season for blue-green algae, some of which are deadly to dogs that swim in and swallow water containing these organisms.

The algae – which also may be colored brown, bright green, or red – typically bloom in warm freshwater lakes and ponds, although they’re also found in the ocean and on land. When the harmful varieties die, they release toxins into the water.

Dogs died last year in several states after swallowing the algae toxins, which can exist away from the algae that appear as foam or scum along the shoreline. Within minutes the toxins affect the nervous system and within hours, the liver and kidneys. Symptoms include weakness, difficulty breathing, vomiting, diarrhea and convulsions, sometimes within 20 minutes.

Humans are susceptible, too. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife warns hunters to carry fresh water for themselves and their dogs to avoid the possibility of drinking blue-green algae.

Green Gear–products to enhance a natural lifestyle

- Simply Fido’s Organic Pet Toy Collection – features nontoxic, chemical-free toys made from certified organic cotton. The plush animals, each with a squeaker, are colored with safe, water-based dyes, and are saliva-resistant and washable. www.simplyfido.com
- The Roadwagz Organic Wrap – made of 100% organic cotton with contrasting trim. Designed to provide therapeutic warmth, it’s comfortable and easy to put on and take off. www.roadwagz.com
- Etta says! – Dog collars made from recycled bicycle intertubes. The strong, durable collars look and wear like leather, according to the company. They are made in the USA and available in 3 sizes. www.ettasays.com
- And great for summertime, Yoghund Organic Blueberry and Vanilla Bean Frozen Yogurt for Dogs – contains probiotics and antioxidants and is low in fat. Available in a 3 oz. cup and a four-pack box, it’s formulated to aid digestive health and strengthen the immune system. www.yoghund.com

Meditations from Martha

No good Black and White (and 'green') newsletter issue would be complete without some cool words to live by. Our words of wisdom come from Martha Beck, a well known life coach who is also a dog lover. She finds life lessons in everything, including walking her beagle, Cookie. Thus, we have Life Lesson #1 – what Martha realized on a dog walk. Please read, then meditate quietly.....preferably on a corn-filled bed.

Life Lesson #1: You cannot feed a beagle all it wants.

My beagle, Cookie, is wild about the golf course and loves to take her walks there. Cookie knows that the course is frequented by a kindly lady who gives out dog biscuits. This sends him into a tap dance of anticipatory joy, as he lusts for food as only a beagle (and mini schnauzers) lust for food like manatees with paws. Sure enough, Cookie sees Biscuit Lady and heads toward her begging like a Dickensian orphan, “please, anything...” Biscuit Lady tosses him a treat, hoping to satisfy him, but dream on. Cookie simply cannot be satisfied.

Remind you of anyone?

There are among us people I call human beagles. They cannot get enough – enough love, praise, attention, control – you name it. Psychologists categorize them as borderline personalities, but all you need to remember is this: you cannot satisfy them. Don't even try.

Human beagles can be identified by a sensation that I think of as drain-strain. Sometimes it registers slowly, as though you're a maple tree tapped for its syrup. Sometime you can feel your energy being cannibalized in great, horrifying mouthfuls. Either way, drain-strain's signature combination of exhaustion, aversion, and resentment means you're throwing resources into an insatiable gullet. It's bad for both you and the human beagles. They can feel satisfied only by creating an inner supply of happiness and empowerment. “Feeding” them leaves both of you weaker and hungrier.

Now go meditate and be glad we don't have beagles.....

And While You Meditate

A good “Pawturner”: *Arfirmations: Meditations for your Dog* by Ellis Weiner and Barbara Davilman, is a collection of meditations that channel the essence of being a dog. The book offers whimsical and deep meditations like “I bury things so that the universe cannot find them,” and “I disobey because I fully love and respect myself.” ... probably penned by a mini schnauzer ghost writer!

Don't forget our next Club meeting and Picnic

When: Saturday, June 27, 4-6 pm

**Where: Dog Sense Unlimited
(see address inside)**

**All Dogs and Humans Welcome
Join Us for the Picnic and Schnauzer Play Time**

Beard 'n Brows

Newsletter of the Mount Vernon Miniature Schnauzer Club
21301 Golf Estates Drive
Laytonsville, Maryland 20882

